

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Title

The title has been objected to as not being descriptive. In response, a new title, which is more clearly indicative of the claimed invention, is presented herein for the Examiner's consideration and approval.

Specification

The specification has been amended to place it in better form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claims Status

Claims 1 through 40 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 through 17, 20 through 30, and 32 through 40 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 10, 20, 23, 28, 33, and 36 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 2 through 6, 9, 12 through 17, 21, 25, 29 through 31, 34, 37, and 38 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. The claims remain in their dependent form, inasmuch as it is believed that Claims 1, 10, 20, 23, 28, 33, and 36 from

which they depend will be found to be allowable. (It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to these claims do not affect their allowability.)

Art Rejections

Claims 1, 7, 10, 11, 20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Document No. 2003-76131 (Tsuchiya).

Claims 8, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26 through 28, 32, 33, 35, 36, 39, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuchiya in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,704,521 (Isobe, et al.).

The rationale underlying the foregoing art rejections is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Art Rejections

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 calls for an image forming apparatus including a first developing agent storing section which stores toner, a toner replenishing member for supplying the toner in the first developing agent storing section to a second developing agent storing section, a density detector for detecting a toner density in the second developing agent storing section, and a controller which controls operation of the toner replenishing member on the basis of information relating to a detected toner density, information relating to an amount of toner used in the first developing agent storing section and information relating to fluidity of the toner.

Specifically, the claimed apparatus controls an operation of the toner replenishing member on the basis of three types of information, namely, information relating to detected

toner density, information relating to an amount of toner used in the first developing agent storing section and information relating to fluidity of the toner.

In rejecting Claim 1, the Examiner asserts that the image forming apparatus of Tsuchiya controls an operation of a toner replenishment member on the basis of information relating to an amount of toner used in the first developing agent storing section and information relating to fluidity of the toner.

Applicants respectfully submit that Tsuchiya does not disclose a detecting means for detecting the amount of toner used in the first developing agent storing section. Instead, Tsuchiya merely discloses an image density detection means 51 which is provided proximate to a photosensitive body 2. The image density detection means detects image density on the photosensitive body 2. The detected information is then used to calculate the toner density in a developing agent. Tsuchiya does not disclose a first developing agent storing section. *A fortiori* Tsuchiya does not detect an amount of toner used in the first developing agent storage section and use such detected information to control an operation of a toner replenishment member.

It is respectfully submitted that Tsuchiya does not anticipate or render obvious the invention defined in amended Claim 1.

It is also respectfully submitted that the other independent claims define patentable subject matter for reciting features directed to an amount of toner used in a first developing storing section.

Amended independent Claim 10 calls for a method of controlling an image forming apparatus which includes an operation control step of controlling an operation of the toner replenishing member on the basis of information relating to the amount of toner used

determined in a use amount determination step and information relating to fluidity of the toner.

Amended independent Claim 20 calls for a developing agent replenishing container wherein a storage section includes a region which stores information for controlling an operation of a developing agent replenishing member on the basis of information relating to a toner density detected by a density detector in a main body of an image forming apparatus, information relating to an amount of toner used in a developing agent storing section and information relating to fluidity of toner.

Amended independent Claim 23 calls for a memory unit mounted in a developing agent control container for use in an image forming apparatus the memory unit includes a region which stores information for controlling an operation of a toner replenishing member on the basis of information relating to the toner density in a second developing agent storing section, information relating to an amount of toner used in a first developing agent storing section and information relating to fluidity of toner.

Amended independent Claim 28 calls for an image forming apparatus which includes a controller which controls an operation of a toner replenishing member on basis of the conveyability information, according to information relating to an amount of toner used in a first developing agent storing section and information relating to fluidity of toner stored in a storage section.

Amended independent Claim 33 calls for a developing agent replenishing container which includes a storage section, wherein the storage section includes a region which stores conveyability information of toner according to information relating to an amount of

toner used in a first developing agent storing section and information relating to fluidity of the toner.

Amended independent Claim 36 calls for a memory unit comprising a region which stores conveyability information of toner according to information relating to an amount of toner used in a first developing agent storing and information relating to fluidity of toner.

Isobe, et al. is merely cited for disclosing a process cartridge with a memory and a computer program housing method. It is respectfully submitted that Isobe, et al. does not remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Tsuchiya *vis-à-vis* the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 10, 20, 23, 28, 33, and 36 are allowable over Tsuchiya and Isobe, et al. whether taken individually or in combination.

Dependent Claims

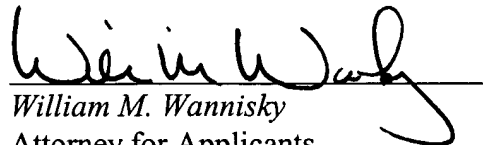
Claims 2 through 9, 11 through 19, 21, 22, 24 through 27, 29 through 32, 34, 35, and 37 through 40 depend either directly or indirectly from one of Claims 1, 10, 20, 23, 28, 33, and 36 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the claims on file are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,


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